

JUN 1952 Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Weisswasser Troop Training Grounds

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

16 June 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During the period from 17 to 27 May 1952, the quarters of Camp Nochten-Boxberg at the Weisswasser (O 52/A 74) troop training grounds appeared to be occupied to capacity. The artillery bunkers on the south edge of the AT artillery firing range were also occupied. All troops seen wore red-bordered black epaulets, partly with tank insignia and partly with artillery insignia and, a few with signal insignia or motor transport insignia. Most of the troops were recruits who had closely cropped hair. About 200 soldiers practiced firing with heavy machine guns and later engaged in close-combat practices at the tank firing range on 21 May. Two T-34/85 tanks were involved in this activity. On 23 May, firing with live ammunition with light arms and tanks including 2 T-34/85 tanks and 4 JS-3 tanks was observed all day long. On 26 May, 4 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 3 JS-3 tanks and 50X1-HUM JSU-122 guns were seen at the troop training grounds. Numerous personnel received combat training which, on 27 May, was continued. [redacted]

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2. On 24 May, four new trucks, which had been unloaded from a train which had arrived at the Weisswasser troop training grounds on 21 May, were seen in front of the headquarters of the troop training grounds. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] Eighty soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were picked up at the railroad station by trucks [redacted] On 29 and 30 May, 11 heavy AA guns, between 30 and 40 trucks [redacted]

[redacted] 6 boxcars with boxes which came from the direction of Cottbus (O 52/A 57) were unloaded at the Weisswasser railroad station.

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On 30 May, between 70 and 80 old trucks, which had a new coat of paint [redacted] were loaded on a train headed in the direction of Cottbus at the Weisswasser railroad station. *

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3. [redacted] Camp Hochtten was expanded toward the north. New low wooden barracks buildings were seen in forest sections 85 and 87. About 70 tanks were parked in forest section 31. New tank training areas were constructed in forest sections 98, 99, 100, 114, and 115. ** The infantry firing range was bounded by forest sections 90, 91 and 92. Firing with live ammunition was noticed. ***

4. On 27 May, truck [redacted] was seen in the Weisswasser ration supply depot. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen in the streets of the town. *

* [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the majority of the 9th Mecz Div was stationed at the Weisswasser troop training grounds until late May 1952. The AT guns which arrived on 29 and 30 May 1952 also belonged to the 9th Mecz Div. With the exception of one vehicle of the GOFG and one from the area of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army, there were no vehicles of other units.

** [redacted] Comment. Forest sections 85, 87, 98 through 100, 114 and 115 indicate a new training area east of Belkenburg which was reported for the first time. It is doubted that this new area should be part of Camp Hochtten which is located 3 km farther to the south.

*** [redacted] Comment. This infantry firing range in the north section of the training area is known from previous reports.

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